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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Lecciones de Historia Argentina.* By RICARDO LEVENE. 2 vols.  
(Buenos Aires: J. Lajoune y Cia, 1920. Pp. xxxi, 436, 516.)

These volumes compose the revised fifth edition of a textbook of the history of Argentina written by a member of the new school of Argentine historians. The present edition is scarcely as attractive typographically as the fourth edition: it is printed in a somewhat more compact format; and the paper is scarcely of such a good quality. A small amount of illustrative material is omitted from this edition. Although it has no formal bibliography, yet it is equipped with footnotes.

The first volume is devoted to the colonial epoch. Its introductory chapter deals with the sciences auxiliary to history with some attention to Argentina's libraries, museums, and archives. The second chapter is concerned with the age of Columbus. Then the early discoverers and explorers of the Río de la Plata are described. The aborigenes of the Platean basin are characterized and mention is made of the activities of the Incas in that region. Considerable space is given to the temporal and spiritual conquest of southern South America by the Spaniards. The spread of settlement into the interior of that continent, the reduction of the Indians, and early indications of discontent with Spanish rule are successively considered. Economic conditions in the viceroyalty of la Plata receive special attention; for a chapter is allotted to each of the following topics: colonial commerce, economic life, the administration of the royal treasury, and economic institutions. A similar amount of space is assigned to judicial institutions, church organization, colonial journals, and colonial society. Four chapters are concerned with the English invasions of the Platean viceroyalty, other antecedents of the Argentine struggle for independence, and the revolution of May, 1810, in Buenos Aires. All in all, this volume furnishes a suggestive epitome of the colonial history of Argentina which utilizes the most recent scientific contributions of Argentine scholars.

The second volume is occupied with the revolutionary period of Argentina's history and with national organization. Only a few more

pages are allotted to the years from 1810 to 1916 than to the colonial period. Of the thirty-five chapters which compose this volume fifteen are concerned with the troublous although interesting history of Buenos Aires and the United Provinces of la Plata which ended by the adoption of the Argentine constitution of 1826. Chapter twenty-six carries the story through the battle of Monte Caseros and discusses the resulting downfall of Dictator Juan Manuel de Rosas. The four following chapters mainly deal with the national reorganization which took place during the years from 1852 to 1861. A chapter accorded to the war of certain South-American nations with Paraguay in which Argentina played an important rôle is naturally written from the Argentine viewpoint. The epoch from 1868 to 1916 is summarily disposed of in some fifty pages. In consequence many topics of interest and significance in the recent history of Argentina, such as electoral reform under President Roque Sáenz Peña, the relations between the national government and the provinces, and the attitude of Argentina toward the World War, receive little or no attention. There may, of course, be reasons why the author of a history of Argentina that is intended for use in the schools of his country may wish to avoid describing in detail the portion of his nation's history about which the passions of some of his compatriots still run high. To the reviewer, however, the neglect to allot more space to the half century of Argentine development under the existing constitution is a cause for regret.

In spite of this shortcoming—which the reviewer hopes may be somewhat remedied in the next edition—Levene's history is among the best works that deal with the history of a nation of Hispanic America. May its tribe increase.

WILLIAM SPENCE ROBERTSON.

*Isabel of Castile and the Making of the Spanish Nation, 1451-1504.*

By IERNE L. PLUNKETT. [Heroes of the Nations series.] (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1919. Pp. xi, 432. Illustrated.)

The full title of this work indicates, it is to be presumed, a purpose to write a biography not only, but a history of "the making of the Spanish nation". With a writer of such talent in the portrayal of character and the narration of events as the author, the biographical element, however, receives an unequal share of attention to the detriment of the story of the evolution of the Spanish nation. Notwith-